

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PRS-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:WLCUTLER:GJB

APPROVED BY AF:EWMULCAHY

AF/P:JPOPE

S/PRS:EPERNICK (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140900

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT

REF: STATE 140153

LONDON FOR ASST. SEC. DAVIS

1. NO QUESTIONS ABOUT ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT ASKED AT DEPT'S DAILY PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 16 AND NO STATEMENTS MADE THEN. ASSOCIATED PRESS DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT LATER REQUESTED DEPT'S REACTION TO CHARGE AND WAS GIVEN SUBSTANCE OF PREPARED GUIDANCE, WHICH ALSO MADE AVAILABLE TO VOA AND IPS. GUIDANCE ALSO READ IN RESPONSE TO QUERY FROM NEW YORK-BASED BLACK AUDIO NETWORK, WHICH SERVICES STATIONS ACROSS U.S.

2. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE PREPARED IN AF FOR DEPT.

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SPOKESMAN ON "IF ASKED" BASIS:

3. QUOTE. QUESTION: ANY COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT THE US WAS INVOLVED IN A PLOT TO OVERTHROW MOBUTU?

4. ANSWER: THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN SURPRISED AND CONCERNED BY AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED YESTERDAY IN THE ZAIRIAN DAILY

NEWSPAPER ELIMA REPORTING RUMORS IMPLICATING THE UNITED STATES IN AN ALLEGED ABORTIVE COUP D'ETAT IN ZAIRE. ANY SUGGESTION OF US INVOLVEMENT IS SHEER NONSENSE.

5. QUESTION: ARE WE IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE ABOUT THIS?

6. ANSWER: WE WILL OF COURSE BE DISCUSSING THIS REPORT WITH ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES, AS IS THE CASE WITH ALL MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND CONCERN. UNQUOTE.

7. IF YOU BELIEVE EMBASSY PRESS STATEMENT REQUIRED, YOU MAY DRAW UPON ABOVE. IN GENERAL, WE THINK IT IS ADVISABLE THAT ANY PUBLIC COMMENTS AVOID CONVEYING IMPRESSION THAT US OVERLY CONCERNED WITH OR PLACING MUCH CREDENCE IN RUMORS ON WHICH ELIMA CHARGES BASED. BELIEVE SUCH RELATIVELY LOW POSTURE WARRANTED UNTIL WE HAVE CLEARER INDICATION OF WHETHER AND HOW GOZ INTENDS TO PURSUE ISSUE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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